

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-34 (Canceled).

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a nuclear fuel,  
comprising:

producing wires, more than half of a number of the wires being wires of fissile  
material;

producing at least one assembly by stranding, braiding or weaving said wires  
together;

disposing the assembly in a stainless ductile casing; and

deforming the stainless ductile casing with the assembly disposed therein so that the  
stainless ductile casing compresses the wires.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The method for producing a nuclear fuel according  
to claim 35, wherein the stainless ductile casing is a tube comprising only one assembly, and  
the deforming includes drawing the stainless ductile casing through a drawplate or by rolling.

Claim 37 (Withdrawn): The method for producing a nuclear fuel according to claim  
35, wherein the stainless ductile casing is a tube comprising only one assembly, and the  
deforming includes deforming the stainless ductile casing by roller burnishing.

Claim 38 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 35, wherein the disposing is  
realized with the stainless ductile casing having a flattened shape and containing plural  
assemblies placed parallel with respect to one another in a uniform manner, and the

deforming is performed by pressing or rolling the stainless ductile casing with the plural assemblies therein.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 35, wherein the deforming is performed so that a cross-section shape of the wires is distorted from their original cross-section shape and so that cross-sections of two adjacent wires fit together.

Claim 40 (New). The method according to claim 35, wherein the deforming is performed until gaps between the wires occupy only 3 to 15 % of an internal cross-section of the stainless ductile casing.

Claim 41 (New). The method according to claim 35, wherein the fissile material is selected in from a group including uranium, plutonium, americium, alloys thereof, and blends of alloys thereof.

Claim 42 (New). The method according to claim 41, wherein the fissile material is selected in from a group including UMo, UAl, and alloys thereof.

Claim 43 (New). The method according to claim 42, wherein the fissile material is a UMo alloy including 8 % by mass of molybdenum.

Claim 44 (New). The method according to claim 35, wherein the wires have a diameter between 10  $\mu\text{m}$  and 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 45 (New). The method according to claim 35, wherein all the wires of the assembly include fissile material.

Claim 46 (New). The method according to claim 35, wherein the wires have identical diameters.

Claim 47 (New). The method according to claim 35, wherein the at least one assembly of wires is a braid.

Claim 48 (New). The method according to claim 35, wherein the at least one assembly of wires is a strand.